An inquiry has been initiated into the matter by a senior Additional Commissioner of Police and the announcement of results has been with-held.

Response to references from MPs

2948. SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the cases of non-reply to references received from Members of Parliament in a time-bound schedule;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to take up the issue with all the Members of the Council of Ministers to implement existing norms strictly; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) and (b) The matter was raised in the House by two Hon. Members on 5th and 18th September, 1991 by way of Special Mentions.

(c) and (d) In pursuance of the above Special Mentions, the Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs and Home Affairs addressed all Ministers, Ministers of State and Deputy Ministers demi-officially in October, 1991 requesting them to ensure that letters received from MPs are replied to as expeditiously as possible giving complete information to the extent practicable.

Instructions already exist in the Manual of Office Procedure and Manual for handling Parliamentary Work in Ministries, stressing the need for giving prompt replies to letters received from Members of Parliament and laying down detailed procedure to be followed on the subject.

Motor-car advance to Members of Parliament

2949. SHRI RAM NARESH YADAV: Will the Minister of PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision on the issue of raising the monetary limit for grant of Motor-Car advance to the Members of Parliament; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) and (b) The proposal has been considered by the Government and it has not been found feasible to accept it.

Government surcharge on petroleum products

@2950. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to revoke Gulf surcharge on petroleum products;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Even with the Gulf Surcharge the cost incurred on production/imports of petroleum products was not fully covered by the sales realisations. Prices of some of the petroleum products had, therefore, to be further increased in July, 1991.

@Previously Unstarred Question No. 1810 transferred from the 10th December, 1991.